

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Veterans Day & United Way
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 5:47:33 PM



A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Valerie Woodward".

The City of Spokane

COVID-19 News Update for Nov. 10

Information about Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) is evolving rapidly. We want to make sure our City employees have up-to-date information. We will provide this update, as needed, to communicate what you need to know, while we work to reduce the spread of this disease in our community and continue to provide critical public services.

A Message from Mayor Woodward

Every year, November 11 is a day we set aside to recognize and honor veterans who have proudly, bravely, and selflessly defended our country. This year seems particularly important for us to pause to say thank you to those who have served and continue to serve.

Your commitment to our country, the time and special occasions you miss with your families, your dedication to the things you hold most dear about our great nation, do not go unnoticed. It is because of each of you, your military brothers and sisters, and every one of the service branches you represent that we enjoy the things we do daily often without a second thought.

We also owe a thank you to your families as well for their support and sacrifice. The ones left behind, away from their loved one who is in harm's way, realize a toll on their lives too.

To the ones who have served, we are extremely grateful as a community and a country for everything you have done and are doing on our behalf. It is very much appreciated today and always.

And for all of us who benefit, whether you show your respect and gratitude by displaying the stars and stripes or in a quiet moment of reflection, please take a minute to honor those who have served and continue to serve our great nation.

United Way Campaign Gets Under Way

For the next two weeks, the City will be participating in our annual campaign to benefit our community year-round through a financial gift to Spokane County United Way. See our [new video](#). Password is United Way.

As you know, Spokane County United Way is a great community partner who recruits people and organizations from across our City to bring their passion, expertise, and commitment to get things done to improve lives. By focusing on the building blocks for a good quality of life – education, income, and health – they are strengthening our community and supporting opportunities for all.

We encourage you to take a few minutes and [learn more about Spokane County United Way's vision](#). More resources and our employee pledge form are available online at <https://www.unitedwayspokane.org/city-spokane>.

Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

City of Spokane employees will be supporting [Salvation Army Bell Ringing](#). The City will be staffing the red kettle outside the Carhartt store, 530 W. Main, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Half-hour volunteer slots are available for groups of two or three employees. Sign up here and help our community: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0549a5ac2ca1fb6-bell>

COVID Cases Surge in Spokane and the State

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) held a news conference today to encourage citizens to take greater personal responsibility to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The news conference comes after Washington state broke two records for highest daily case count, according to DOH data. In Spokane, more than 1,400 people tested positive in the first nine days of November.

Health officials urged Washington citizens to take the risk of COVID-19 seriously and recalibrate their activities now to avoid the need for additional, mandatory restrictions. Reduce social interactions, limit gatherings in your home, wear masks, and make plans for the upcoming holidays that limit the number of people together indoors. Think: Safer. Smaller. Smarter.

Here is a [link to the full presentation](#).

Benefits Open Enrollment Runs through Nov. 13

Human Resources has announced a “change-only” Open Enrollment period (Nov. 2 to Nov. 13) for benefit options this year. Employees who are not changing medical plans or adding/dropping dependents on their medical and dental plans are not required to access the information. The exception to this is those wishing to participate in one of the Flexible Spending Accounts for Health Care or Dependent Care in 2021.

Additional information also is available on the City's SharePoint Site. And, if you need help, please contact an Employee Benefits Team Member at 625.6565 or eracb@spokanecity.org.

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Celebrating Holidays During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
The holiday season typically involves travel, gatherings of family and friends, indoor religious services, and parties, all of which present new risks this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. How can you maintain your holiday celebrations' most important aspects without putting yourself or vulnerable family members in danger from a severe illness? The answers will be different for every family and every individual. This article offers various vital factors to consider and some ideas for enjoying the holidays in different ways this year.
- [Coronavirus travel advice](#)
Are you considering rescheduling travel that you put off because of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)? Maybe you have work or family obligations that require you to travel. Yet worries about safe travel and lodging are holding you back. Get the facts about your travel options and learn how to protect yourself if you must travel.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [EAPHelpLink.com](https://www.spokanecity.org/employee-assistance-program), using company code: **CITSP0**

Employee Information Portal (covid19.spokanecity.org/)

Remember, this Employee Information Portal is a great resource for employees to stay current on what's happening with the COVID-19 response. The [Employee Information Portal](#) can be accessed from work or home, using a computer or mobile device. All of the emailed information we have sent to employees is archived here.